

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

November 17, 2015

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein O. Bontreger, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Andrew Andree, Gary Fritts and Paul Norwine. Let the record show that Stephen Jordan was absent. Also present was Kimberly K. Grow, Jasper County Auditor and Donna J. Horner, Deputy Auditor. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Price.

MINUTES: Mr. Price made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 20, 2015. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / SUPERIOR COURT BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund, Superior Court Budget, was \$16,370.00 within Personal Services, Per Diem Petit Jury, \$4,000.00 within Other Services & Charges, Lodging & Meals Jurors and \$18,000.00 within Other Services & Charges, Translator for a total of \$38,370.00. Due to a potential criminal jury trial commencing in December of this year, a letter was submitted in October requesting additional funds. The Defendant does not speak English and will be in need of full-time translation services. Judge Ahler explained that the case was originally set for trial this month; however, there was a motion to continue. The motion was granted to continue; therefore, the case will not actually be tried until 2016. The Defense Counsel has filed a request for an evaluation to determine if the individual is competent to stand trial. By statute, the Court has to appoint two medical professionals to examine the individual. Interpreters will need to be present for this as well; therefore, Judge Ahler would like to request \$3,000.00 within the Translator line item for 2015. The remaining requested amounts will not be needed at this time. Mr. Price made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-11A** in the amount of \$3,000.00 within the Other Services & Charges, Translator line item. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / DONATIONS ANIMAL SHELTER FUND: Advertised in the Donations Animal Shelter Fund, Personal Services, Training was \$1,450.00. Pat Williamson, Animal Control Board, explained that the money will be used to send two Animal Control Officers to "Chemical Immobilization Training". The training will take place in Indianapolis on December 4 and 5. The Commissioners did approve the training request at their October 5 meeting. Mr. Andree made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-11B** as advertised. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET: A request has been made to transfer \$1,250.00 from Supplies, Vehicle Expense into Capital Outlays, Furniture & Equipment within the County General Fund, Animal Control Budget. Mr. Williamson stated that this money will be used for the purchase of storage cabinets. Mr. Norwine made the motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR / SALARY: Mr. Williamson introduced Mark Sinclair as the new Animal Control Director. Mr. Sinclair was with the City of Rensselaer for 14 years and ConAgra for approximately 8 years. Mr. Williamson stated that they noted that the Director did not get a pay raise this year. Our efforts are to bring professionalism to the Animal Shelter and to try to build some stability. Part of that is to bring in qualified people. Mr. Williamson requested that the Council consider giving the Director the pay raise received by the majority of the county employees as Mr. Sinclair is taking quite a pay cut to come here. Mr. Price asked if there was some type of probationary period for new county employees? Auditor Grow replied that it is usually six months before they get a bump up in pay but that's entirely up to the department head. Mr. Price replied that, although he is sure that everything will work out fine, I think it would be appropriate to have a 90-day period. Mr. Price also expressed concern with taking a new employee and paying them more than someone who has been there for awhile. I feel that it would be hard to justify without some type of trial period. Mr. Williamson stated that due to the fact that we brought someone in that we feel is going to lead this department in the right direction, we feel that the raise is only going to make up a small amount compared to what he has made at his previous position.

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ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR / SALARY CON'T: We have spoken with Commissioner Kendell Culp and he has given his support of the raise; however, he was unable to be here tonight. It is a good faith gesture that we thought we would throw out there because we think we are moving in the right direction. We think it's a good bet that he will be there for some time and will do a good job. Mr. DeVries asked Mr. Williamson what particular changes he sees being made by Mr. Sinclair? Mr. Williamson replied leadership, policymaking, organization, etc. There are a lot of things that need to be improved upon in order to make the shelter run efficiently. Sheriff Risner stated that Animal Control by statute and by the ordinances are supposed to investigate all dog bites. We have had a lack of investigation ability that seems to have arisen within the last couple of years. Mr. Bontreger requested a letter and/or list of expectations for the Council to review in order to help justify their decision. The issue will be readdressed at a future meeting.

TRANSFER / SHERIFF'S BUDGET: A request has been made to transfer \$1,500.00 from Other Services & Charges, Liability Insurance into Capital Outlays, Furniture & Equipment within the County General Fund, Sheriff's Budget. Sheriff Risner stated that several pieces of furniture need to be replaced due to age and overuse. Mr. Price made the motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

SALARY CONTRACT / SHERIFF: Sheriff Risner explained that due to the fact that the salary for the road deputies was short of what he had requested, he didn't feel morally that he could ask for his full amount; therefore, his salary contract is \$1,000.00 less than what was approved by the Council. The contract amount is for \$83,000.00. Mr. Price made the motion to approve the Sheriff's Salary Contract for the calendar year 2016 in the amount of \$83,000.00. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

STATE JAIL INSPECTION: Sheriff Risner distributed the State Jail Inspection for review. Almost 200 areas of the jail are inspected annually by the State Jail Inspector. The only deficient noted was on insufficient staffing.

TRANSFER / PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: A request has been made to transfer \$458.32 from Supplies, Office Supplies into Other Services & Charges, Witness Fee within the County General Fund, Prosecuting Attorney's Budget.

A request was also made to transfer \$129.85 from Supplies, Books & Supplements into Other Services & Charges, Travel within the County General Fund, Prosecuting Attorney's Budget.

Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve both transfers as requested. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING / SWCD: Jim Martin, SWCD, presented a Memorandum of Understanding providing for the salary of Dan Perkins, Watershed Specialist. The County provides approximately \$36,000.00 towards the salary. A little over \$12,000.00 in additional salary is provided by SWCD. Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve the 2-year Memorandum of Understanding with SWCD. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2015 SALARY ORDINANCE / AMENDMENT: Mr. Price made the motion to approve the following amendments to the 2015 Salary Ordinance. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

<u>County Highway</u>	
Maximum Rate per Hour for Part-Time Janitor Position	\$13.94
<u>Health Department</u>	
Health Nurse	
Maximum Rate per Hour	\$22.13
Mid Level Rate per Hour	\$21.51
Beginning Level Rate per Hour	\$20.89

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2015 SALARY ORDINANCE / AMENDMENT CON'T:

<u>Circuit Court</u> Court Reporter	
Maximum Rate per Hour	\$18.89
Mid Level Rate per Hour	\$18.70
Beginning Level Rate per Hour	\$18.08

<u>Superior Court</u> Court Reporter	
Maximum Rate per Hour	\$18.89
Mid Level Rate per Hour	\$18.70
Beginning Level Rate per Hour	\$18.08

2016 SALARY ORDINANCE / AMENDMENTS: Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve the following amendments to the 2016 Salary Ordinance. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

<u>Assessor Department</u> Assessor	
Base Salary	\$44,598.00
Assessor who have attained a Level II	\$45,933.00
Assessor who have attained a Level III	\$47,493.00

<u>Reassessment Assessor</u> Deputy Assessor	
Base Salary	\$35,785.00
Deputy Assessor who have attained a Level II	\$36,285.00
Deputy Assessor who have attained a Level III	\$36,535.00

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE / 2016: Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve the following Jasper County Council Meeting Schedule for the Year 2016. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Tuesday, January 19
Tuesday, February 23
Tuesday, March 15
Tuesday, April 19
Tuesday, May 17
Tuesday, June 21
Tuesday, July 12
Tuesday, August 16
Tuesday, September 20
Tuesday, October 18
Tuesday, November 15
Tuesday, December 20

FROST LAW / UPDATE: Commissioner Jim Walstra stated that they are currently in the process of having the frost law written and hope to have it implemented by the end of the year. The possibility of using the Sheriff's notification system to inform everyone when the law is in effect has been discussed. Mr. Fritts asked if there would be an issue with not having it posted on the roads? Mr. Walstra replied that he doesn't believe that it has to be posted; however, we will look into seeing how many signs we have available.

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COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE: Commissioner Walstra also reported that the contracts were signed yesterday for the county health insurance. There was a cost increase of approximately 8%.

There being no further business, Mr. Norwine made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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